

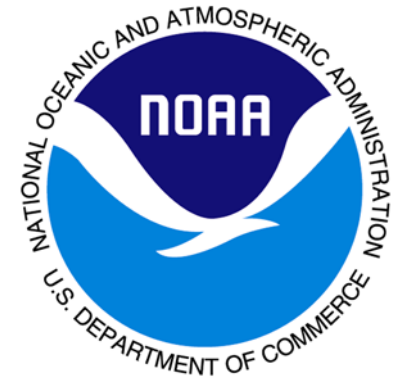
# **Cooperation in Fisheries Management**

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## ***An Overview of Successes & Challenges***

Vince O'Shea

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission



# *Examples of Success*

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# **Stock Assessment Process**

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- **Supports ASMFC management**
- **Collaboration between State and NMFS scientists**
- **Stock assessments**
- **Peer reviews**

# **Complementary Regulations**

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- **Federal regs support ASMFC Plans**
  - **Scup – Fed trip limits - state landing limits**
  - **Sea Bass – Fed quota - state allocations**
  - **Fluke – States manage recreational fishery**
  - **Lobster/Red Drum – Transfer to state mgmt; Fed regs mirror ASMFC; states control landings**

# **NMFS Framework Supports Collection of Landing Data**

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- **Enables ASMFC quota mgmt for sea bass, fluke, scup, bluefish**
- **Need to improve scope - timeliness**
- **Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) is key**

# **Fishery Independent Data Collection**

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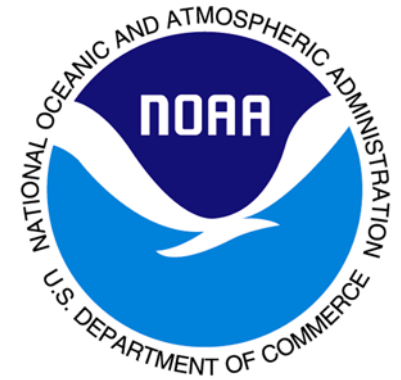
- **NMFS surveys of EEZ critical to assessment of ASMFC species**
- **State surveys include near shore**
  - **Spawning and nursery grounds**
- **Validate effort mutually helpful**

# **Joint Enforcement Agreements**

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- **OLE provides needed support to States: Boats, equipment, training**
- **State officers enforce federal FMPs**
- **ASMFC Law Enforcement Committee partnership opportunity**

*...But also an area of challenge*



# *Challenges and Solutions*

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# **Joint Enforcement Agreements**

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- **FY03 shortfalls painful**
  - **States anticipated funds – now must find \$\$\$ to backfill**
  - **\$5M versus \$15M to share**
  - **Impacts to trust relationship**
- **Help: Restoration and Timeliness**

# **States In Fiscal Crisis**

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- **Agencies losing dollars/people**
  - **Less participation on committees**
  - **Science – Monitoring must continue**
  - **State-Fed Partnership Challenge**
- **Seek efficiencies - Avoid duplication**
- **Partnerships: ACCSP – JEAs –???**

# **Fisheries – Protected Species**

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- **MMPA/ESA impacting States**
  - **Fishery economics – staff workload**
- **Optimum catch – Minimal interaction**
- **Strengthen Fed-State Cooperation**
  - **Multiple agencies in some states**
  - **\$1M –”Conservation & Recovery with States” in FY03**

# Fisheries Dependent Data

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- **Landing & by-catch data incomplete**
  - **Accurate estimates of  $F$**
  - **Defining overfishing**
- **ACCSP is cornerstone to solution**
  - **Improve dealer/vessel reporting**
  - **Expand at-sea observers**
  - **Discussion: MRFSS to ACCSP?**

# Communication

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- **Timely notification of mgt actions**
  - Regulatory changes
  - Fishery closures
  - Quota monitoring
- **Reduces efficiency – Impacts Co-op**
- **Goal: Build mutual trust**
  - NRCC provides forum for solutions
  - Discussion???

# Summary

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## Successes

- **Stock Assessment**
- **Complementary Regulations**
- **Landings Data**
- **Fishery Independent Data Collection**
- **JEAs**

## Challenges/ Solutions

- **JEAs**
- **State Fiscal Crisis**
- **ESA/MMPA - Fisheries**
- **Fisheries Dependent Data**
- **Communication**

***COMMENTS - DISCUSSION***